

Early Activities in Kansas

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May, 1903.

B I B L I O G R A P H Y .

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Max Greene---- The Kansas Region. Especially pages 140-144.

Randolph B. Marcy----Handbook of Overland Expeditions.

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Hiram Martin Chittenden---- History of the American Fur Trade of the Far West. Three Volumes. Special references: Vol. I. Part I, Chapter VII. Part II, Chapters I-VI, and XXVI. Vol. II. Part II, Chapters XVII-XXXI. Part III, Chapters II, VI, and VIII. Part V, Chapters VIII and IX. Appendix F.

Frank A. Root and William Elsey Connelly.---- The Overland Stage to California. Especially Chapters I, III, X , and XXII.

Isaac McCoy----History of Baptist Indian Missions. Chapter XXIII.

John H. Gihon M.D.----Geary and Kansas. Chapter II.
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J.F. Rhodes----History of the United States. Vol I, Chap. II.

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EARLY ACTIVITIES IN KANSAS.

A brief survey of the events leading up to territorial organization.

When, after a long struggle, the "act to organize the territories of Nebraska and Kansas" was passed and signed by President Pierce, May 30, 1854, it was not as is sometimes supposed, a new and unknown field that was being opened up for settlement. Not only was it not an unknown field, but it was a country that was already beginning to undergo the refining process of civilization; so much so, in fact that we cannot, as we do with many other states, date the beginning of the history of the development of Kansas from the time when the country was first organized into a territory. We find in some of the histories of Kansas statements to the effect that "when the Nebraska-Kansas bill passed Congress, Kansas contained not a town or settlement of whites"; and these statements coupled with general impressions that we have of the western country at that time lead us at once to jump to the conclusion that Kansas was then a barren waste, uninhabited except by a few roving bands of savages and the immense herds of buffaloes that ~~then~~ occupied the western prairies, into which a few bold and adventurous traders and trappers had pushed their way. This conception of the conditions in Kansas at the time of Territorial organization is

not uncommon, but it does not require more than a superficial examination into the early history of this region to convince us that it is far from the real condition of affairs at that time; while careful research and exhaustive investigation would undoubtedly result in very interesting and instructive additions to Kansas history.

Kansas in the early part of the fifties was full of life and activity. The forerunners of civilization and settlement had long since crowded over her eastern boundary and invaded the boundless prairies. For more than a half century, her plains had been explored and re-explored, not only by expeditions sent out especially for that purpose, but also by the trappers and fur-traders who plied their trade on the ^{West} ~~Mountain~~ and Northwest. For more than a quarter century she had been the great highway for the prairie trade and commerce that sprang up between the frontier towns of Missouri and Santa Fe and the surrounding towns of Mexico. Soon the removal of eastern tribes of Indians to Kansas by the United States government led other civilizing agencies into this wild country and Indian missions and agencies were scattered over the plains. ~~Meanwhile~~ As early even as 1830, the evidences of the coming civilization and settlement were very numerous.

The earliest expeditions into what is now Kansas resulted in practically nothing that had any permanent effect upon the country itself, their value being only that they gave

to the world an increased knowledge of this vast unknown region. So we may pass over the expeditions of Coronado during the years 1540 and 1541 and the French explorations during the latter part of the seventeenth century and the beginning of the eighteenth. The fur-trade and trapping in Kansas and the surrounding country was the first of the activities that was permanent from the beginning until the time of the actual settlement of Kansas, and that was instrumental in hastening this settlement. Historically, the fur-trade in the Louisiana Territory commenced in 1712, when Crozat obtained from the French government a grant entitling him to all fur-trade and trapping in Louisiana; but during the next half century, although this trade was carried on to some extent by different companies and individual traders, there was no systematic fur-trading, and no permanent trading-posts were established as far up as the valley of the Missouri River. In 1799, Pierre Laclade Siquet and Pierre Choteau who for more than thirty years had been trading and trapping in this vicinity, established a post near what is now St. Joseph, Mo. and in 1800 another was established on the Missouri three miles below the mouth of the Kansas River. These however were not permanent; but when in 1803 the Louisiana Territory was purchased by the United States, this fur-trade with the Indians rapidly increased and in 1808, "the Missouri Fur Company" was organized with Manuel de Lisa and

and Pierre and August Choteau at the head. The few trading posts which they established among the Indians to the west of Missouri were not in the nature of settlements but merely places of trade with the Indians and headquarters for trapping expeditions. In 1811, the most advanced white settlement was at Fort Osage on the Missouri River a few miles east from the Kansas line. In 1812, "The Missouri Fur Company" was dissolved and in 1813 "The American Fur Company" was founded with members of the Choteau family at the head. Francis Choteau was sent to the region, now the state of Kansas, and was employed in trading with the Indians for a number of years. In 1821, a post known as Four Houses was established on the north bank of the Kansas, twenty miles from its mouth. During this same year also a general agency for furnishing supplies for these trading expeditions was established at the mouth of the river and was also used as a central point from which traders were sent out into the vicinities of the Neosho and Osage Rivers. Later, in 1825, Francis Choteau was joined by his brother and the two built a house on the present site of Muncie. In 1830, a trading post was established on Mission Creek, then American Chief Creek, in what is now Shawnee County, and in 1834 another was established in the present Linn County by Girard and Choteau, agents for "The Northwestern Fur Company". It was only a few years now until posts were established through all the country from the Platte to the ~~Ar~~ ~~est~~ ~~Ar~~.

Arkansas River. Not all were permanent, but in many of them we find the beginning of later points of settlement; for these posts were usually well chosen as regards location and it was but natural that when the flow of emigration set in that it should center around these points already established.

The fur-trade, however, was not limited to Kansas and the region east of the Rockies; for all the time it had been growing here, it was also spreading and extending over the mountains into the Northwest. This had its effect upon Kansas; for all exploring and trading expeditions made Kansas their starting point. This resulted in the establishing of a regular route of travel, the Oregon Trail, which was later the highway for all emigration to Oregon, when by the treaty of June, 15, 1846, the dispute with England as to ownership of this country was brought to an end and it was opened up for settlement. The Oregon Country had to some extent excited the interest of the explorer and trader since the year 1804 when President Jefferson sent Lewis and Clark on the expedition across the newly acquired Louisiana in order to explore the disputed territory. In 1811 the Astorian settlement was made here for trading purposes but was abandoned after being captured by the British during the War of 1812. Stephen H. Long's explorations which extended all through the west, beginning in 1816 and lasting for nearly eight years, and more especially the Yellowstone Expedition which he made in 1819 and 1820, did much to extend the knowledge of this

country, as did also the fur-trading expedition of General William Ashley up the Missouri River and across the mountains in 1822 and 1823, and the later expeditions of John C. Fremont from 1842 to 1845 all through the Northwest. Gradually these explorers had wrought out the regular route of travel which became thoroughly established by 1845 and was known as "The Oregon Trail". This trail began at Independence, Missouri and followed the Santa Fe Trail which was already established, for forty one miles, then turning northwesterly, it crossed the Wakarusa Creek at a point near what is now Lawrence, and thence it followed the Kansas River to near where Topeka is now located. At this point was stationed a ferry which had been established in 1841 by the Papin brothers. Crossing the river here, the trail continued northwesterly, crossing Turkey Creek and the Little and Big Vermillion and coming then to the Big Blue near its junction with the Little Blue. Near this point it was joined by the road which was later established from Fort Leavenworth and St. Joseph. From here the road crossed into Nebraska coming to the Platte River twenty miles below the head of Grand Island. From here it followed the Platte crossing the south fork at its junction with the north, and passed through Fort Laramie northwesterly across the mountains by way of South Pass, discovered by Ashley in 1823, into the Oregon Country. Thus it was that the early fur-trade and trapping in the west and northwest had an important influence

upon Kansas not only because permanent settlements grew out of the trading posts, but also because it was instrumental in the opening up of the Northwest, which in its turn was a great benefit to Kansas because of the hundreds of emigrants flocking there by way of the roads over the Kansas plains

In connection with the fur-trade and influencing the growth and development of the country in a similar but even more effective way was the Santa Fe trade and commerce which, as has already been mentioned, had grown up between the frontier towns of Missouri and Santa Fe, Mexico. This Santa Fe trade owed its origin to the condition of commercial isolation which existed at that time in Santa Fe and the surrounding towns, Vera Cruz being further away and more inaccessible than Missouri. Trappers and hunters during the latter ~~many~~ part of the eighteenth century had made the journey to Santa Fe by different routes and brought very flattering reports of the wonderful possibilities of trade with this country. The first expedition, however, that was made for commercial purposes was in 1804 when Baptiste La Lande, a French Creole, was sent by William Munson. He went from Kaskaskia, Illinois to Santa Fe carrying his goods, but after having disposed of them at an exceedingly high price, remained in Santa Fe, utterly disregarding his obligations to his employer. In 1805, James Pursley (by some called Purcell) of Kentucky wandered across the plains and with the guidance of the Indians he

finally reached Santa Fe. He was the first American to make the trip. Here, Captain Zebulon M. Pike found him in 1806 when he made his expedition up the Osage River into the Rocky Mountains and was captured by Spaniards within their territory and Taken to Santa Fe. When Pike was released and returned home, making a report of his expedition and again emphasizing the opportunities for trade with Santa Fe, an active interest began to be directed towards Santa Fe. But the hostility of the Spanish government for a time completely discouraged all commercial intercourse between Americans and Mexicans. In 1812 McKnight, Baird and Chambers made their expedition across the prairies and into Spanish dominions where they were imprisoned and held for nine years. This continued hostility was not very conducive to the development of trade and commerce; but in 1821 a change occurred in Spanish government which was favorable to American trade and this same year Captain William Becknell made the first regular trading expedition from Missouri to Santa Fe and was the founder of the Santa Fe trade and trail. Instead of following the route which earlier adventurers had taken, up the Arkansas and around by Taos, he crossed the Arkansas River near what is now Dodge City, Kansas and went direct to San Miguel. In his expedition of 1824, he was the first to use wagons instead of pack-horses and mules to transport his merchandise. In 1822, then, the "commerce of the prairies" had its beginning. It grew and developed rapidly. Soon great caravans

were wending their ways across the Kansas plains and into Mexico beyond. During the first few years, the traffic amounted to from fifty to one hundred thousand dollars per year. At first, the headquarters for the outfitting and departure of these trains of commerce^c was at Franklin, a little town on the Missouri River, about one hundred and fifty miles west from St. Louis, all goods and supplies being shipped from St. Louis by steamboats. This point, however, was not used long for it was cheaper to ship goods by water as far as possible, and in 1832, the headquarters for outfitting and supplies was transferred to Independence, Missouri, to which point goods were shipped directly from St. Louis. The Santa Fe Trail followed by these trains entered Kansas in Johnson County near Meadow Creek in Oxford Township. Thence it ~~went~~ passed a little south of west through what are now Johnson, Douglas, ~~and~~ Osage and Lyon Counties to Council Grove. This place was a rendezvous and final gathering place for all wagons and was considered as the real point of departure. Here the caravans were organized and one man was chosen as captain who was to direct the journey and act as general overseer in all preparations for the coming trip and especially to provide against attacks from the Indians of the plains. Sometimes there were as many as two hundred men in one caravan and generally from twenty to eighty ~~men~~

or one hundred wagons, one hundred being considered unusually large. The value of the goods transported generally averaged about \$2,000.~~00~~ to the wagon. From Council Grove, the road ran still southwesterly, crossed Cottonwood Creek, Turkey Creek, the Little Arkansas and Cow Creek and reached the Arkansas River at the great bend. Thence it followed the river to near what is now Cimarron station on the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad. Crossing the river here, the road traversed sixty miles of desert ~~to the Cimarron River~~ and came to the Cimarron River and from there ran directly to Santa Fe. The entire distance covered by this route was seven hundred and eighty miles.

Realizing the importance of this commerce, Thomas H. Benton of Missouri had, in 1824, secured the passage of a bill in the United States Congress providing an appropriation of \$10,000.~~00~~ for surveying and marking this road, and \$20,000.~~00~~ for securing from the Indians the right of transit across their country. In 1825, the Commission for this purpose marked the way, following the route already established, with the exception that they extended it up the Arkansas River to its source and from there went by way of Taos direct to Mexico. This longer route, however, was not generally followed by traders, even though it was safer and not so difficult in passage.

The first period of the Santa Fe trade lasted until

1843, when it was prohibited altogether by the Mexican government. During this time, the amount of merchandise carried across the plains had increased from \$15,000 in 1822 to \$450,000 in 1843. The number of wagons crossing the prairies had increased from twenty six in 1824 to two hundred and thirty in 1843 and the number of men from seventy in 1822 to three hundred and fifty in 1843.

The prohibition of the trade in 1843 was only a futile effort on the part of the Mexican government to turn the tide and prevent the inevitable crisis that was soon to bring about the annexation of all this southern territory to the United States. But it was all in vain. For years influences had been in operation that were to settle the destinies of these Mexican provinces. The necessity for this trade was so great that it could not be cut off for ^{any length of time.} ~~long~~. By his decree of March 31, 1844,

Santa Anna again opened the northern towns of Mexico to commerce because of the dissatisfaction and threatened revolt of the Mexicans. Traffic was scarcely well under way again, however, when the storm broke and the Mexican War prevented all further commercial intercourse. But immediately after the Mexican War the trade was renewed on a larger scale than ever. The very fact that this

territory to the southwest now belonged to the United States, increased the necessity for trade and made greater

the possibilities of commercial development.

The immense number of wagons and men crossing the prairies annually had an effect upon the country through which they passed. Relay stations for outfitting and supplies, repair shops and trading posts were established along the line. Council Grove, so named by the commissioners for surveying the Santa Fe Trail in 1825, had been established since the beginning of the Santa Fe trade. The Walnut Creek Post Office on the Santa Fe route where the trail crosses Walnut Creek had been established since 1850 and Council City on Switzler's Creek was just beginning to be settled. All along the whole trail as far as it passed through Kansas, in fact, the whole country was full of the spirit and energy of pioneer life.

There seemed to be little thought at this time of permanent settlement ~~and~~ and development of Kansas herself. All efforts expended upon Kansas soil were merely to make communications between the East and far West better and more rapid. This was due to the fact that all eastern and central Kansas was taken up by the reservations granted to the Indian tribes. The native tribes of Kansas which had formerly roamed without restraint over all the western prairies had, by treaty with the United States in 1825, agreed to confine themselves within definite boundaries, the Kansas Indians occupying lands to the north of the Kansas River and the Osages to

the south along what is now the state line. They ceded the remainder of lands claimed by them to the United States, and thus the way was opened up for the United States government to carry out the policy of removing Indians of eastern states to districts marked out for them in what was then the Missouri Territory. During the period from 1825 to 1854, many of these treaties for removal were made and soon all eastern Kansas was occupied by Indian tribes, including the Osages, Kansas, Cherokees, Miamies, Peorias, Kaskaskias, Ottawas, Sacs and Foxes, Shawnees, Pottawatomies, Delawares, Kickapoos, Quapaw^s, Missouri^s, Piankashaws, Iowas, Weas, Wyandottes and remnants of tribes of New York Indians. It was not so much by these tribes that the traders and explorers of the prairies were troubled and at times attacked as by the roving tribes that still inhabited the plains to the west. In the treaties which ceded these lands of Kansas to the Indian tribes, they were guaranteed permanent possession, there seeming to be little thought of anything else but that this country should be entirely set aside for the Indians and that there would never be any encroachment by the whites. The result was that from the viewpoint of the emigrant and settler, this barrier to the occupation and settlement of the best lands of Kansas was a decided hindrance to the development of this region and the advancement of civilization; but

from another point of view, the occupation of these lands by the Indians , as far as its effect upon the country is concerned, was not entirely in vain. There were forces at work among the Indians which in a measure counteracted the drawback which their occupation involved. These were the Indian Missions and agencies , established among the different tribes of Indians primarily for the purpose of educating, ~~and~~ training , and civilizing them, but which, in order to accomplish this end, had necessarily brought with them some of the equipments of civilized life and in their work had helped to develop the hidden resources of the prairies, formerly so uninviting; and besides had added their numbers to the settlements of whites which were just beginning to be scattered over the territory in 1854.

The first of these missions in Kansas were established in 1820 when on July 19, two Presbyterian stations were located among the Osage Indians. This tribe was one of the largest, consisting of nearly six thousand people, but nevertheless seems to have been much neglected by the missionaries and the government. Other missionaries came here in 1822 and located in what is now Neosho County, but soon these efforts were abandoned and not until 1847 was any effective work done there. At this time Rev. John Schoenmaker came to the old station in the present

Neosho County, accompanied by assistants and established a school for boys and later, one for girls also was started. Under this leadership, much was done for this tribe both in the way of industrial and general education.

Missionary work was commenced among the Kansas Indians in 1827 when the government established an Indian agency under Barnett Vasquez on the Kansas River and on the south line of the present county of Jefferson. Daniel M. Boone, son of Daniel Boone of Kentucky, was sent here as farmer for the Indians and under his guidance they soon began to learn the art of agriculture. Later with the assistance of the government the Methodists also established a mission school here.

The Shawnee Indians, located just south of the Kansas River and numbering between eight and nine hundred people received more attention than either of the native tribes. In 1829, the Methodists commenced work here by establishing a school ~~name~~ under the direction of Reverend Thomas Johnson. This was located in what is now Shawnee Township, Johnson County. Later in 1831, Rev? Isaac McCoy established a Baptist mission near this same point. This soon grew to be an important station. In 1839, Rev. Thomas Barker was put in charge and in 1848, he had a church erected which was one of the first frame buildings erected in Kansas. Rev. McCoy was made an agent by the

government for colonizing Indians and established missions among other tribes as well. In 1833, Jotham Meeker, a printer, with his wife, came to this mission bringing with him a printing press and began printing Indian pamphlets and issued an Indian newspaper. Later in 1837, he located among the Ottawas. Near the Baptist mission was the Friend's Shawnee Labor School, at which there were thirty Indian people ^{being} instructed in agriculture and the mechanical and domestic arts. Connected with this school, there was a farm consisting of over two hundred acres of land fenced and cultivated.

This same year, 1831, a missionary station in charge of Rev. E.T. Perry and his wife was founded among the Delawares who were located in the upper angle formed by the junction of the Missouri and Kansas Rivers. This tribe numbered nearly a thousand and was well advanced in civilization, living in well built [↑] log houses and being supplied with cattle, horses and swine. In addition to the missionary work among them, they received considerable assistance from the government. In 1832, Dr. Johnston, for the Baptists, founded a mission post there and schools and farms soon followed.

The Kickapoos who were just north of the Delawares and who had about four hundred Indians in their tribe, were also being rapidly civilized. The government assisted them materially and many of them became good farmers. A Methodist mission was established here in

1833 by Rev. J.C. Berryman and in 1836 a Catholic mission was also founded.

The Pottawatomie tribe of Indians which numbered about ~~in~~ sixteen hundred and was located south and west of the Delawares and north and west of the Shawnees, ^{was} ~~were~~ first approached in 1833, when Rev. Robert Simerwell and wife left the Shawnee Baptist mission to start work there. The St. Mary's Catholic mission was also located here about this time on Sugar Creek. In 1847, it was removed to the south bank of the Kansas River in the southwest part of what is now Shawnee County; but in 1848 was removed across the river where an excellent school for Indians soon grew up.

The Ottawa Indians, of whom there were about three hundred and fifty, were located south of the Shawnees and thirty miles west of Missouri. They received much help from the government in addition to that received from the mission post and school started there in 1837 by Mr. Meeker. They were among the more advanced tribes as far as civilization was concerned.

In addition to those already mentioned, other mission posts and schools were gradually located among the Otoes, Iowas, Sacs and Foxes, Peorias, Kaskaskias, Weas and Piankashaws. The work among these tribes however was not so active. The Iowas received considerable help from the government, but with this exception these tribes were

somewhat neglected both by the government and the churches.

In all their missionary efforts, the churches were very greatly assisted by the government and it was because of this that they were enabled to do as much as they did. Their work, as we have seen, included not only religious instruction and training, but industrial training and education as well. Farms were laid out and cultivated, schools were established for girls and boys, blacksmith shops were operated, and houses and churches were built. By 1854, missions were established among practically all the tribes of Kansas and they became the center of interest, not only for the Indians but for all the whites that might be in the vicinity. Other activities followed them, so that with the passing of the Indians as they were again removed by the government to what is now Indian Territory, the mission posts were transformed into permanent white settlements. In this way, the missionaries had done a service not only to the red man, but to the white man as well, who was fast encroaching upon the Indian reservations. How great this service was, cannot be easily estimated, but it extended to the explorer, the trader, the traveller, the emigrant and the settler and must be counted in along with the other agencies that were hastening the time when Kansas should be claimed exclusively for the white man.

During the years ~~when~~ in which the early expeditions and explorations were taking place and later the

trade and commerce across the prairies together with the removal of Indian tribes into the Missouri Territory, it was necessary that the United States should establish some sort of military supervision over the country. With the sending out of military detachments for purposes of exploration and for the protection of the trappers and traders and with the establishment of military posts and building of military roads at points so that the control would be most effective, there was greater encouragement and to the East to try the fortunes of the West; ~~from~~ with the assurance of protection there came the form of settlement that is always bound to follow military occupation and control.

United States military authority in Louisiana dates from March 10, 1804, when Major Amos Stoddard assumed the duties of governor of upper Louisiana; but for all practical purposes, this authority was not felt and was not established in Kansas and the country west of Missouri until 1827, when a part of the Third Regiment of the United States troops, consisting of about two hundred men under the command of Major Baker, was stationed at the point where Ft. Leavenworth now stands. This point was chosen in accordance with orders from headquarters of the army, dated March 7, 1827, which directed Col. Leavenworth to select a site within twenty miles above or below the mouth of the Little Platte River. He was unable to find a suitable lo-

cation on the east bank of the river, and chose the present point which is an admirable one .. The government reserve, one of the most beautiful spots along the bank of the Missouri River, included nine square miles. It was undoubtedly the fort that determined the location of the city of Leavenworth in the summer of 1854, in the valley three miles south of the fort. Until February 8, 1832, this point was called a cantonment, but at that time became a fort and in honor of Col. Henry H. Leavenworth was called Fort Leavenworth. Col. Leavenworth began erecting barracks in July of this same year and this post soon became the point of departure for all military expeditions in- to the ~~man~~ surrounding country and occasionally was called upon to furnish soldiers to protect traders from the Indians of the plains. It also bore an important relation to the traders among the Indians because of its part in carrying out the regulations governing Indian trade. Later during the Mexican war, Ft. Leavenworth became one of the principal points of rendezvous for forces destined to service further west.

In the spring of 1839, Col. Henry Dodge of the United States army commenced his expedition to the Rocky Mountains from Ft. Leavenworth. In this journey, he followed the west bank of the Missouri River nearly to the mouth of the Platte, and then turning west he explored along the Platte River to its source . He then turned south and travelled

over the mountains, thence coming back along the valley of the Arkansas River. The route which he followed is almost identical with that followed by different Railroad lines to-day. This can undoubtedly be attributed to the fact that the paths opened up by his journey were followed by the emigrants in later years and the overland stage and mail lines; so that it was but natural that railroads should follow lines of travel already established and along which the important points of settlement were located.

On October 31st, a report of a plan of defenses for the western frontier was submitted to the war department and included a line of fortifications south from Ft. Leavenworth through what is now Ft. Scott to Ft. Smith, Arkansas. This resulted in the establishment of Ft. Scott. In 1842, Captain Benjamin Moore and Dr. Mott of the United States Army selected Camp Scott in southeastern Kansas as an additional military center in the west. In 1843, the name was changed to Ft. Scott. This post never was an important one and was only occupied by troops until 1855 when it was abandoned, the government property being sold for a very insignificant sum.

Soon after this post was established, the difficulties between Texas and Mexico and later between the United States and Mexico made it necessary to send troops mobilized at Forts Leavenworth and Scott into the southwest,

and during the Mexican War, the Kansas plains were crossed and re-crossed by United States troops. Probably the Mexican War and the consequent opening of the new lands annexed did more to hasten settlement in Kansas than any other one thing. At any rate, it increased very greatly military operations in Kansas and all through the west. An increased number of soldiers were necessary for the war; posts and places of supply must be had for the soldiers, and military roads had to be established for their use. Later troops had to be sent along the routes of travel into the new lands for the protection of the thousands of emigrants going there to settle.

In 1850, the great military road was established from Ft. Leavenworth to Ft. Kearney. This went up through ^{are} what ~~was~~ now Leavenworth, Atchison, Nemaha, Marshall and Washington Counties northwesterly into Nebraska and was afterwards followed by the overland mail stages.

Soon after this, in March, 1853, Fort Riley was established in accordance with the recommendation of Colonel T.T. Fauntleroy of the First Dragoons who, in his letter of July 31, 1852, to General T.S. Jessup, Quartermaster General of the United States Army, said that he refused to recommend ^{an expenditure for} repairs at Fort Leavenworth because he did not consider that post as best suited for the military operations in that quarter. He also urged the

establishment of a military post at or near a point on the Kansas River where the Republican fork unites with it. He further urged the discontinuance of the Leavenworth, Scott, Atkinson, Kearney and Laramie posts and the concentration of troops at the post proposed. A military camp called Camp Center was established at this place in the fall of 1852 and it was made a permanent post by the establishment of Fort Riley in the spring of 1854. The other posts were not abandoned at that time in accordance with the ~~recommendation~~ recommendation, but later all were with the exception of Forts Leavenworth and Kearney. This shows the tendency of military activities to extend to the west.

By the spring of 1854, then, just previous to the coming of territorial government, the whole country was under military supervision and the power of the central government was felt in every district. The military government had prepared the way for the civil, and in providing for the needs of the present had made greater the possibilities of the future. It had come to protect and encourage the hardy pioneer, adventurer and trader in his earlier efforts and to represent the government in its dealings with the Indians, and in doing so had made the way easier for the coming of greater things which were to determine the destiny of Kansas.

In addition to the activities which were very gradually growing and developing in such a way as to bring about the opening of Kansas and all the western country, there occurred a rapid series of events in the ten years previous to the passing of the Nebraska-Kansas bill that were very powerful in their influence. The effect of these events were felt only indirectly in Kansas for they all occurred in the territory beyond the Rockies; yet they are so important as factors in the growth of Kansas that they ~~cannot~~ cannot be disregarded. The first of these, the Mormon emigration from Illinois to what is now the state of Utah, had no intimate connection with the other activities of the west, but was an entire movement in itself. The bulk of the Mormon emigration was across the present state of Nebraska. Starting west in 1845 and six, they spent the winter of 1846 and seven encamped along the Missouri River. The principal camp, known as "Winter Quarters" was at a point on the west bank of the Missouri where Florence, Nebraska is now situated. Early in 1847, the march began from the Missouri River, a pioneer band being sent out to explore the path and the others following. They went along the Oregon Trail to where it crosses the Platte, then ~~crossing the~~ following the south branch of the Platte, crossed the mountains and came to Utah by way of Fort Bridger. Some of the smaller

companies, however, undoubtedly did cross through Kansas. There was a Mormon encampment at Atchison during the time of the emigration; ^{and} ~~but~~ those who did cross Kansas went by way of the Oregon Trail from Independence and St. Joseph, Missouri northwest, joining the route of the other expeditions later on. The settlement in Utah was of more importance to Kansas than the emigration. There were about fifteen thousand of them who settled in Utah and all supplies and communications must come through Kansas by the regular routes of travel.

During the time of the Mormon emigration, affairs had come to a crisis in the southwest with Mexico. Texas had been annexed to the United States by joint resolution of Congress, signed by the president, March 1, 1845. Indirectly this event had a very powerful influence in helping to shape the destiny of Kansas. The Mexican War was the direct result of this annexation and when the war clouds had rolled away and the treaty was signed in February, 1848, the United States found herself in possession of New Mexico and the much coveted California. Nine days before the signing of the treaty an event occurred which was soon to bring great throngs and multitudes into this district from almost every quarter of the globe. This was the discovery of gold in the foothills of the Sierras in January, 1848. The news did not begin to

spread until the following summer, and soon blacksmiths, carpenters, farmers, masons, soldiers, sailors and domestics—all were leaving their occupations to enter the gold fields. During the year of 1849, 39,000 of these gold seekers arrived by water and 42,000 overland. Of those who came overland, the great majority came by way of Kansas. The news of this discovery had spread like wild fire and thousands upon thousands flocked across the prairies in search of wealth. It is estimated that during the spring and summer of 1849, following the gold excitement, over fifteen thousand wagons crossed the Missouri River on the ferries at St. Joseph, and at the towns on the river from Council Bluffs to Independence, twenty seven thousand men and nearly forty thousand oxen and mules were ferried across the river .

It was these activities in the west; the emigration and settlement in Oregon, the trade and commerce in the southwest, the settlers and great numbers of miners of California, the Mormon settlers in Utah and the military detachments scattered all through this country that made it necessary the establishment of the overland mail, stage and express lines which were operated all during the fifties and sixties. All the important lines of this kind had their starting point in Kansas.

Of these different lines which were established through Kansas, the one that interests us most is that of the overland mail; for it was the only one of them that was put into ~~regular~~ operation previous to the year 1854 . The first of the frontier mail lines was established in May, 1849 from Independence, Missouri to Santa Fe, New Mexico, by way of the old Santa Fe Trail. This route covered a distance of 850 miles and the time occupied in making the trip was a month each way. The difficulties to be overcome for the first few years were enormous. The country was infested with hostile tribes of Apaches, Kiowas, Pawnees, Arapahoes, Cheyennes and Comanches, and the contractor was subjected to immense losses on account of the depredations of these Indians in addition to the heavy expense to be incurred in the equipment for the journey. There was no military protection furnished at the points where it was most needed. The consequence was that every stage had to carry with it its own means of protection. An article in the "Missouri Commonwealth", dated July 1850 which was published at that time in Independence, Missouri gives a good description of the first stage line and shows also something of the effect that it had upon the opening up of Kansas. "The stages", it says, "are gotten up in elegant style and are each arranged to convey eight passengers. The bodies are beautifully painted and made water tight, with a view of using

them as boats in ferrying streams. The team consists of six mules to each coach. The mail is guarded by eight men armed as follows; Each man has at his side fastened on the stage one of Colt's revolving rifles, in a holster below one of Colt's long revolvers, and in his belt a small Colt's revolver, besides a hunting knife, so that these eight men are ready in case of attack, to discharge one hundred and thirty six shots without having to reload. This is equal to a small army, armed as in the ancient times, and from the looks of this escort, ready as they are for offensive and defensive warfare with the savages, we have no fears for the safety of the mails."

"The accommodating contractors have established a sort of base of refitting at Council Grove, a distance of one hundred and fifty miles from this city, and have sent out a blacksmith, and a number of men to cut and cure hay, with a quantity of animals grain and provisions and we understand they intend to make a sort of travelling station there and to commence a farm.. They also, we believe, intend to make a similar settlement at Walnut Creek, next season. Two of their stages will start from here the first of every month." So we see that Council Grove ~~had~~ by this time had become an important settlement in Kansas. It was the principal relay station and contained a post-office, a blacksmith shop, supply stores and the surrounding country was being placed under cultivation. ~~Similar stations were established at~~

vation. Similar stations were established at other points along the line. Soon after the beginning of the service, the Walnut Creek post-office was established at the point where the trail crosses Walnut Creek near the Arkansas River. Here also a relay station was placed and shops for repairing and outfitting. Council City also had a post-office and the little town of Delaware ten miles up from the mouth of the Kansas River had a post-office together with trading posts and ~~hax~~ blacksmith shops.

The second of the great mail routes across the plains of Kansas was put into operation July 1, 1850, Samuel H. Woodson of Independence, Missouri taking the first contract. The route extended from Independence, Missouri to Salt Lake City, Utah and was twelve hundred miles long. Only a comparatively small part of this route extended through Kansas. After leaving Independence, the route first passed through Fort Leavenworth and then followed the military road which had been layed out before to the northwest and joining the Oregon Trail just beyond the crossing at the Big Blue it followed the trail to Fort Kearney. Thence the route followed the south bank of the Platte, crossed the mountains at Bridger's Pass and then going by way of Fort Bridger came directly to Salt Lake City. Before the establishment of this route, Fort Leavenworth had more or less regular mail

communication with the east but the establishment of this route brought the first mail service to the other ^{places} ~~towns~~ along the line which it followed, and increased the importance and stability of the points that had already begun to be settled. At the point where the stage crossed the Big Blue, General Frank J. Marshall, ~~had~~ in 1849, five years before Kansas was thrown open for settlement, had established a ferry which on account of the immense overland travel to the California gold fields proved to be a very profitable investment. In 1851, the ferry was moved two miles up the river to the present site of Marysville. When the overland mail route was established through this point, a flourishing settlement soon began to develop. In addition to ~~a~~ the ferry, there was also a post-office and a hotel here. There is nothing to show that at this time there were other important settlements in Kansas along this line though later it connected with Atchison and St. Joseph, Missouri.

These two mail routes, the one from Independence to Salt Lake City and the one from Independence to Santa Fe were only the beginning of the great overland mail, passenger, and express service that later were established between towns along the Missouri River and the settlements of the west, but they were the only ones that were in operation previous to the spring of 1854 when Kansas was made

a territory. It is , of course, true that the mere establishment of this mail service in itself added very little to the vast multitudes that were now crossing the prairies and that it was of little value in the actual opening up of the country, for the routes followed by the stage lines were those that had already been explored and established by earlier agencies of civilization; but they were important as having a great influence upon the permanent settlement and future development of the country through which they passed. In following the very paths that had been followed for years they placed a higher stamp of civilization upon them and points that had been formerly been mere way stations were now transformed into permanent settlements by the establishment of post offices and relay stations and they were henceforth common centres through which communication with the rest of the world was possible.

As we have seen from a brief sketch of the early activities in the country to the west of Missouri, forces were gradually uniting and shaping themselves in such a way that the opening up of the Kansas and Nebraska territory was inevitable. For a half a century, Kansas had been the great highway over which all exploring and trapping expeditions took their course to the west; for thirty years the trains of commerce had passed over the barren plains of Kansas to the towns of what is now New Mexico; the government and the different church denominations had establish-

ed agencies, missions, schools and farms among the Indians who had been transported from their eastern reservations; and military supervision and control had been the means by which all this territory had been governed. Later the settlement of the Oregon controversy in 1846, the Mormon emigration into Utah in 1847-8, the annexation of New Mexico and the California country and the consequent opening up of the gold fields, all coming almost at the same time, had united to turn the interest of the East to the far West. ~~and~~ The result was that thousands of emigrants, miners, traders and adventurers were soon pouring through Kansas to the west. It was but natural, then, that Kansas should feel the effect of ~~xxx~~ not only ^{of} the earlier activities but also of the later events in the west and that the [^]tendency should be to fill up the [^]gap between the East and the West and to make the evidences of civilization continuous from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The consequence was that in spite of the fact that all eastern Kansas was occupied by Indians who were supposed to be located there permanently, ^{it was inevitable that there should} ~~there could not help but~~ be a crowding over the line of settlement along the Missouri and an encroachment upon the lands of the Indians, ^{and} Kansas, which so long had been a mere highway to greater things beyond was, because of what she herself contained, beginning to excite the interest of settlers and speculators.

She was now more than ready for the territorial organization which came in 1854.. This the people of the western states recognized and for several years Senator Douglass of Illinois had been trying to secure the ~~passage~~ passage of an act for that purpose. Especially did the pro-slavery men of Missouri realize that this territory must soon be opened up and they began to send in men to preempt claims to the best lands in order that when the time should come they might claim the country for slavery; so that in addition to the activities of the peaceful pursuits of civilized communities, there were also to be seen the evidences of the coming struggle between pro-slavery and free soil men. Thus closes the first period of Kansas history. Her prairies and plains were all ready for peaceful occupation and settlement and yet were soon to be the battle field for civil strife which was the beginning of the greater conflict between the North and the South.

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